



# Summer Savings

REDUCING & CONSERVING ENERGY DURING THE SUMMER SIZZLE

## at work

### ■ Turn off excessive lighting

Turn off some of the overhead lights in your office and take advantage of natural light from a window, whenever possible.

### ■ Flip the switch

Upon leaving your workspace or a conference room, be sure to turn off the lights.

### ■ Let your computer take a snooze

When heading to a meeting or lunch, put your computer to sleep as this option allows for energy conservation while your computer is not in use. You may also change your settings to have your computer go to sleep automatically after several moments of inactivity.

## at home

### ■ Buy Energy Efficient Products

Look for the “Energy Star” rating. This is a rating system awarded by the EPA to those appliances and electronics that are most energy efficient.

### ■ Dress your windows

Windows can be a great source of natural light. However, on the extra hot days the sun beating through your window can really heat up the room. Be sure to close your curtains and blinds when the sun is shining in to reduce excessive heating. When heat is not an issue, consider opening those blinds for natural light, instead of turning on an overhead lamp.

### ■ Monitor the thermometer

To conserve energy and stay comfortable, it is recommended that households set their thermostats between 78 and 80 degrees while at home. Also, using a ceiling fan in conjunction with your central air conditioner can help cool a room more efficiently.

Visit these links to learn more about energy conservation and valuable tools that can help your family reduce energy consumption:

- <http://www.energystar.gov>
- <http://www.yousustain.com>
- <http://www.pge.com/myhome>
- [http://www.energysavers.gov/your\\_home](http://www.energysavers.gov/your_home)
- <http://www.flexyourpower.org>



# Kill A Watt

Did you know a 36” television uses approximately 120 watts (.12 kilowatts) per hour and a washing machine uses approximately 500 watts or ½ a kilowatt per load? Do you ever turn on the television for “background noise” or, run the washer that’s not quite full? The amount of time and the number of appliances that we use daily makes a huge impact on our over all household energy consumption. Many of our appliances and electronics are used in excess or inefficiently. This month, take a moment to evaluate your household’s energy use and consider making small changes that, in time, will greatly impact our environment.

If each household in Los Gatos reduced their television time by 1 hour a day, for an entire year, together we could save more than 515,000 kilowatts...enough energy to light over 400 homes for an entire year!

If you are curious how much energy your electronics and appliances use, visit the Los Gatos Public Library and check out a Kill-A-Watt Meter. These devices are checked out free of charge and can shed some light on your energy use.

For more information visit <http://www.losgatosca.gov/DocumentView.aspx?DID=1177>.

